





BOOK REVIEW

# Clear and pertinent chapter of Arab history

**HASHEMITE ARAB 1908-1979**, by Brig. El-Edroos (ret.), Pakistan. 788 pages, with illustrations and maps, published by The Publishing Com-

pany. The book covers the aspects, but also discusses the inherent political situation which led to each battle or war, and the consequences of each conflict.

Reviewed by Khaled Musa

WRITE a book on the Hashemite Arab Army from 1908 to 1979 is truly a daunting task. It is not only a good knowledge of one facet of the world's history in that period, but also of other facets of history in its dimensions and deeper aspects.

Over, when he identified a permanent record subject, Brig. Sayed Ali El-Edroos was not daunted by the size of the task: nor did he second thoughts about proceeding with the idea of writing on it.

It is clear in his mind that in carrying out the project he has to negotiate three tasks. First, there was the need to understand the military and personality of the Arab, British and Israeli and to a lesser extent, the French.

The second problem was the need for a thorough knowledge of the military zones of operations in the Hashemite Arab Army in many battles, from Asir Hejaz in mid-1916 to the Hejaz in October 1973. Third, "and possibly the most difficult," Brig. El-Edroos says, "the need to understand and project the political, psychological and historical factors that propelled the Arab northwards from Trans-Jordan, Syria and the post-World War I era, which found them 61 years after the Arab Revolt as the key, and pivotal confrontation force, in the elusive search for a just, honourable and lasting peace in the volatile Middle East."



Detachment of the Desert patrol marches past Jordan's Qasr Kharameh in the 1940s; from The Hashemite Arab Army

King Hussein reviews a ceremonial guard of honour in Amman, 1956

The history and the status of the Hashemite Arab Army are basically those of its four Hashemite supreme commanders, from 1916 to the present day. Their role in the struggle for the independence and unity of the Arabs ever since the emergence of the spirit of nationalism and pride — which had been intellectually and morally smothered for centuries under the Turks — comes into proper perspective in this book.

"The first shot in the long road to the Arab Renaissance and Nationalism was fired by Emir Ali and Feisal Ibn Hussein on 5 June, 1916 at the tomb of Hamza, on the outskirts of Medina. Thus, the Hashemite Arab Army can rightly claim to be the torch-bearer of the Arab Renaissance, but more importantly it re-emphasised the basic truth, that, in the final analysis it is the national will and determination to survive that decides the issue, whatever the physical or moral odds may be, or whatever the form and nature of the strategy and tactics employed by the would-be oppressors," the author writes.

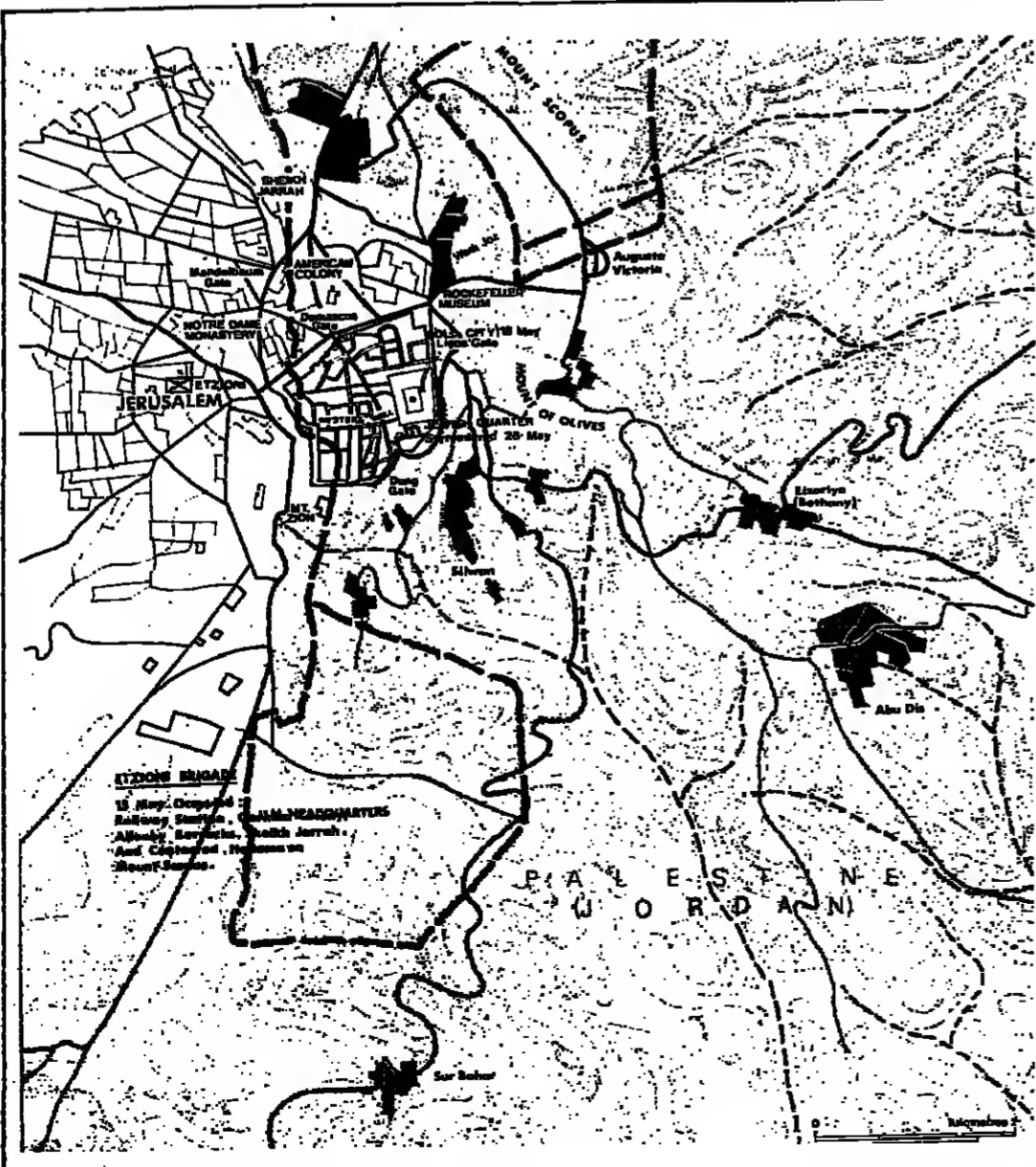
The Hashemite Arab Army has come a long way since the first shot of the Arab Revolt was fired in 1916. But its history is still being written: it faces today its greatest challenge: defending Arab independence and Arab rights against an intransigent and expansionist Zionist enemy. In the author's words: "The Arab states would be well advised to prepare for the eventuality of a Fifth Arab-Israeli war, for no amount of Summit Resolutions, military posturing, empty threats or theoretical celebrations by intellectuals hibernating in campuses across Europe and North America, and drawing-room strategists ensconced in orna-

mental saloons, will persuade the Israeli Forces to relinquish their hold on the occupied West Bank, the Holy City of Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights."

It is this history, past and present, that the book details, completing the hitherto unfinished story of the military history of the Hashemite Arab Army, together with sound and pertinent military analysis.

In his foreword to the book, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan expresses his appreciation of the military analysis, "which will be invaluable to the specialist and layman alike, particularly of the Arab and Muslim World."

To this can only be added an appreciation of the tremendous effort that must have been made to produce this wide-ranging book, to tell the whole story of the Hashemite Arab Army.

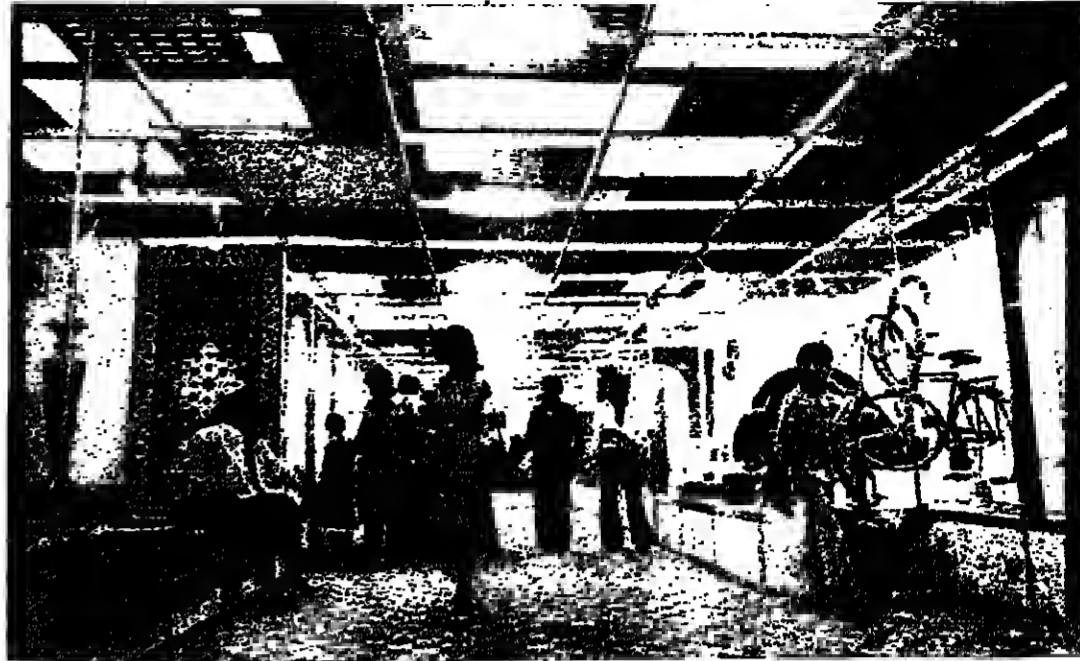


Map of the battle for Jerusalem, May-July 1948

## Iraqi products fair inaugurated

AMMAN, Sept. 1 (J.T.) — A fifteen-day exhibition of Iraqi products opened in a ceremony at the Professional Associations Complex in Shmeisani today. The products fair features industrial products such as vehicles and agricultural equipment, animal and agricultural products and a wide variety of other goods.

Iraqi Under-Secretary of Trade Mahdi Al 'Ubaydi, speaking at the ceremony, praised Iraqi-Jordanian ties and Jordan's support for Iraq in its battle to regain its rights. (Staff photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)



## Jordan, W. Germany exchange notes on agricultural cooperation

AMMAN, Sept. 1 (J.T.) — Documents on technical cooperation between Jordan and West Germany in forestry and plant protection control were exchanged here today between Minister of Agriculture Marwan Dudm and West German Charge d'Affaires Gunter Mulack.

One of the documents, a memorandum, extends a 1974 agreement on cooperation between the two countries in the field of forestry until July 1983. The agreement now calls on the Bonn government to send to Jordan, at German expense, a number of experts and to supply the necessary machinery and equipment to assist the Ministry of Agriculture in establishing a forestry training centre at Kamaliah. The centre would provide Jordan

and the region with trained staff. A second memorandum exchanged at the ceremony at the Ministry of Agriculture today stipulates that Germany assign a number of experts to help in establishing a chemical laboratory for plant protection control in Jordan. West Germany will also supply the necessary equipment and apparatus for the project. The laboratory will conduct tests, the results of which will help the Ministry of Agriculture in protecting the population against any harmful effects of the incorrect use of insecticides.

## Telcoms loan increased to KD 5 million

AMMAN, Sept. 1 (Petra) — A royal decree has been issued approving a loan agreement between the Jordanian government and the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, and the first amendment to that agreement.

According to the first amendment, the fund will increase the loan to Jordan from 3.7 million Kuwaiti dinars to KD 5 million, to cover completely the estimated cost in foreign currency of the sections of the joint Arab telecommunications project to be located within Jordanian territory. Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Jordan are participating in the joint Arab project. The fund will also give the Syrian government a loan amounting to KD 3.7 million to finance the part of the project located within Syrian territory. Iraq and Saudi Arabia will finance the parts of the project located within their own territory.

## UNCTAD aide due next week for CAEU talks

AMMAN, Sept. 1 (Petra) — The head of the commercial section at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Mr. Sa'id Jawahiriya, will arrive in Amman next week for a two-week visit to the General Secretariat of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU).

During his visit to Amman, Mr. Jawahiriya will have talks on the steps already implemented on an agreement concluded between UNCTAD and the CAEU in Geneva in March 1980. He will also discuss with CAEU officials arrangements related to a seminar for CAEU specialists on the experience in economic integration of regional blocs such as the European Common Market, Comecon and the Latin American economic group.

## Arab Red Cross, Crescent societies to meet in Tunis

AMMAN, Sept. 1 (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the meetings of the executive committee of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross societies which will begin in Tunis on Thursday. The participants will discuss several topics related to the agenda of the conference of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross societies, to be held in Bahrain in October, to coordinate the positions of Arab societies at the 24th conference of the International Committee of the Red Cross which will be held in Manila in November. Jordan will be represented at the Tunis meetings by the director of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society, Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura.

## RSS to study computer system for postal fund

AMMAN, Sept. 1 (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Postal Savings Fund (PSF) today signed an agreement for studies on the establishment of an integrated computerised information system for the PSF.

According to the agreement, signed at the RSS premises, the RSS will prepare a comprehensive study on the PSF information system, within a period not to exceed three months, at the cost of JD 4,000. The RSS will undertake a study of the manual information system currently used at the PSF, including analyses of the work of each department; the transfer of information within each department and among the various departments; communications facilities and available manpower.

The RSS will also investigate the qualifications of employees who will work with the computer and the staff needed to operate it; define the needs of the potential users of computer data; analyse the changes that will occur under the new system, and assess their impact on each department. The agreement also stipulates that the PSF should render the necessary facilities to the working group supervising the preparation of the study. The working group is composed of several RSS specialists who, according to the agreement, should be allowed to collect data and meet with PSF officials according to a timetable to be agreed between the two sides.

## RSS chief to take part in Paris UNESCO panel

AMMAN, Sept. 1 (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will participate in the meetings of the advisory group of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) which will begin in Paris on Saturday. RSS Director General Albert Butros, who will represent the RSS at the weeklong meetings, said the group will review UNESCO's programmes and the method of its work in the field of scientific and technological policies. The group will prepare a study on trends, concepts and new methods which can constitute a basis for policies to fulfill the needs of the development strategies of UNESCO member states in the Third Development Decade (1980-1990), Dr. Butros said.

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**Saudi traffic officers graduate**  
AMMAN, Sept. 1 (Petra) — The first and second Saudi traffic police classes graduated at the Zarqa police training school this morning. The 136 trainees in the two classes received instruction in legal, police and military science, in addition to specialised training in directing traffic and the law of the road. They also received practical field training for four additional months after the end of the four-month theoretical training period. At the end of the graduation ceremony, the director of training and planning, deputising for the Public Security director, distributed certificates and awards to the graduates.

**Sharkas sees Iraqi institute chief**  
AMMAN, Sept. 1 (Petra) — The Director General of the Department of National Libraries, Documentation and Archives, Dr. Ahmad Sharkas, today met with the director of the Arab documentation institute in Baghdad. During the meeting, they discussed ways of developing study methods at the institute and of reinforcing documentation ties between countries of the Arab group. The institute, established in 1977, accepts students from all Arab countries, with a quota of 10 seats for each state.

**AOAS case studies seminar**  
AMMAN, Sept. 1 (Petra) — A two-week seminar on the use of case studies in administrative work will start on Saturday at the Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences (AOAS) here. AOAS Director General Abdullah Al Za'bi said that the seminar aims to orient the participants on modern administrative theories. Taking part in the seminar will be representatives of institutes of administration, centres of administrative development and specialised institutes in administrative training in several Arab countries.

**Phone installation drive continues**  
AMMAN, Sept. 1 (Petra) — The telephone committee decided in a meeting held today under Communications Minister Mohammad Adhoub Al Zaben to install 513 new telephones in various parts of the country. Dr. Zaben said that the Telecommunications Corporation had installed, between the beginning of this year and the end of May, 5,692 telephones around the country, more than 85 per cent of which are automatic. He added that the central telephone committee in Amman, and committees in other areas, have installed more than 2,000 new telephones in the last three months alone, making a total of 8,000 telephones installed this year.



# Theatre, video and radio: communications aid India's push for development

By T.E. Voigt and Rajive Jain

It is dark at the construction site near New Delhi. The air is heavy with smoke and spices as Rajasthani construction workers cook rice and lentils over open fires in front of tents supplied by the construction company. People squat around the

Lok Doot, a mobile educational unit, is just one of many in India that use theatre as a medium for development of communication. Its repertoire includes humorous skits on the use of literacy, hygiene and balanced nutrition. The material is drawn from the lives of the audience. Thus "balanced nutrition" is supplementing the staple of lentils and rice with green vegetables known to cure blindness, an ailment common among construction workers. Lok Doot is financially better than many other groups. Its parent company, Mobile

Chreches, was founded 10 years ago by middle-class housewives to provide day-care and later educational facilities for children of New Delhi's predominantly female construction workers. Now they try to educate parents as well as children. Lok Doot's van is a luxury beyond the scope of other street theatre groups, most of whom work on shoe-string budgets, without props, and often as volunteers.

Another Delhi group, Street Sanghush, uses theatre for its anti-dowry campaign. About 250 women die in Delhi each year from problems related to dowry

fires, smoking and talking. Suddenly, the headlights of a van pierce the darkness. Half-naked children stream towards the swaying beams. As the vehicle bumps over the uneven ground, "Lok Doot! Lok Doot!" sounds excitedly into the Indian night.

The group, composed of men and women, of teachers, students and housewives, performs wherever a dowry death has been reported. Its play shows two scenarios. In one, disgruntled in-laws murder the young bride when her parents refuse the ever-increasing demands for extra dowry. In the other, the potential victim is rescued at the last minute by sympathetic neighbours. After each performance, members of the audience are invited to discuss the dowry issue and its consequences.

Various such groups operate throughout India. They need few

props, no technological training, and can arrange for instant feedback or discussions around their performances. Moreover, they share many of the advantages attributed to the traditional media of India, some of which were used successfully for mass mobilization during India's struggle for independence.

At the other end of the communications scale is videotape recording. Video is the current darling of western community communications. With its flexibility in terms of programming, instant feedback, and mobility, it has fired the imagination and

enthusiasm of development communicators.

Yet video is an expensive medium for citizens of a country like India. "If, to trigger a social process, I need 75,000 rupees (approximately \$9,500) worth of equipment and two or three highly paid workers then I am not a social worker," says the director of Chitrabani, a Calcutta-based communications agency.

Chitrabani is one of the few private Indian organisations to have toyed with video. So expensive is the equipment, however, that it is kept under lock and key, except during film and script-writing classes for the students of social communications. Some video experiments on development communication have been conducted in India, usually on an ad hoc and short-term basis. Ajmer, a town in Rajasthan, was the setting of one. Social workers borrowed equipment from American transients to record conversations with farmers about inadequate access to water. The resulting material, when shown to extension officers and block development officers, led to joint meetings to explore the practicalities of setting up a water development programme.

Although less expensive, even cassette recorders and slide projectors are costly items in a country where the average annual income is about Rs. 1000. A cassette recorder costs at least Rs. 800 (\$100) and even a film projector light bulb can cost about Rs. 150 (\$20) to replace. Added to the cost of the equipment and staff training, is a problem of appropriate audiovisual material. An Indian villager, unused to western

art or photographs, may not receive the intended message of a slide show.

One health worker, for example, used slides to show villagers the link between the nearby swamps, the mosquitoes, and malaria. Several villagers reacted strongly to a close-up of a mosquito on the screen. "If we had mosquitoes that size in our village, of course we would worry."

UNICEF has found in Nepal that two-dimensional traditional drawings can be more meaningful to remote Nepalis than photographs. Chitrabani is experimenting with hand-drawn glass slides to allow villagers to abstract messages into pictures more meaningful to them.

Low-cost slide projector kits are also being developed. Chitrabani is working with what it calls a magic lantern, that can be manufactured locally and inexpensively.

"We wish to give people a medium which can be under their total control," notes the director of Chitrabani, a Canadian Jesuit. "The magic lantern costs Rs. 200 (\$25). It is built by an ordinary tinsmith, and equipped with locally available lens and with an ordinary 100-watt household bulb." A petroleum-filled lamp can replace the bulb for areas which do not have electricity.

The government of India has long recognised the importance of mass communication. Radio has been considered a tool of national development since India drew up its first Five Year Plan in 1951. Like television, which was introduced in 1957, all India Radio (AIR) remains state controlled. The issues of centralisation and

decentralisation of programming are perennially debated, as are the means of providing equal opportunity to India's fragmented audience.

The resulting proportions of Indian broadcasting are impressive. In 1977, a total of 84 stations and 155 transmitters beamed out 1,045 hours of programming a day in 35 languages and 137 dialects. Ahmedabad City radio alone serves its residents in five mother tongues -- Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Urdu and Sindhi -- to take just one example.

Special audience and public participation programmes are carried by some stations to try and involve the audience in programming content. Even so, only about one-third of India's population has access to radio, although almost 70 per cent of India's geographical area could potentially be reached.

Television still reaches only a fraction of India's 685 million people. Its viewers are predominantly from the higher economic bracket. Only 470,026 television receivers were licensed in 1976, excluding school sets, and including 4,341 community sets. Many community sets are kept under lock and key for fear of

damage and resulting expenses.

The Working Group on Autonomy for radio and television was critical of India's programming to date, commenting in its final report: "There is little doubt that by opening up new worlds of knowledge and opportunity, broadcasting can be a powerful liberating force. Yet, the tragedy is that radio and TV have with rare exceptions tended to avoid programmes that specifically focus on poverty, exploitation and social justice even if these are limited to educating the illiterate and oppressed about their legal and social rights."

In the field of communications flexibility is particularly important in a country as complex as India -- a country where two-thirds of the people are illiterate, and which is divided by 90 distinct ethnolinguistic regions, 17 official languages, 208 recognised dialects, six major religions, and over 3,000 distinct caste groups. In such a context, the purpose of the communication must take precedence over the nature of the medium, for each medium has something to offer -- be it the immediacy of a street play, or the scope of a national radio programme.

IDRC feature

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